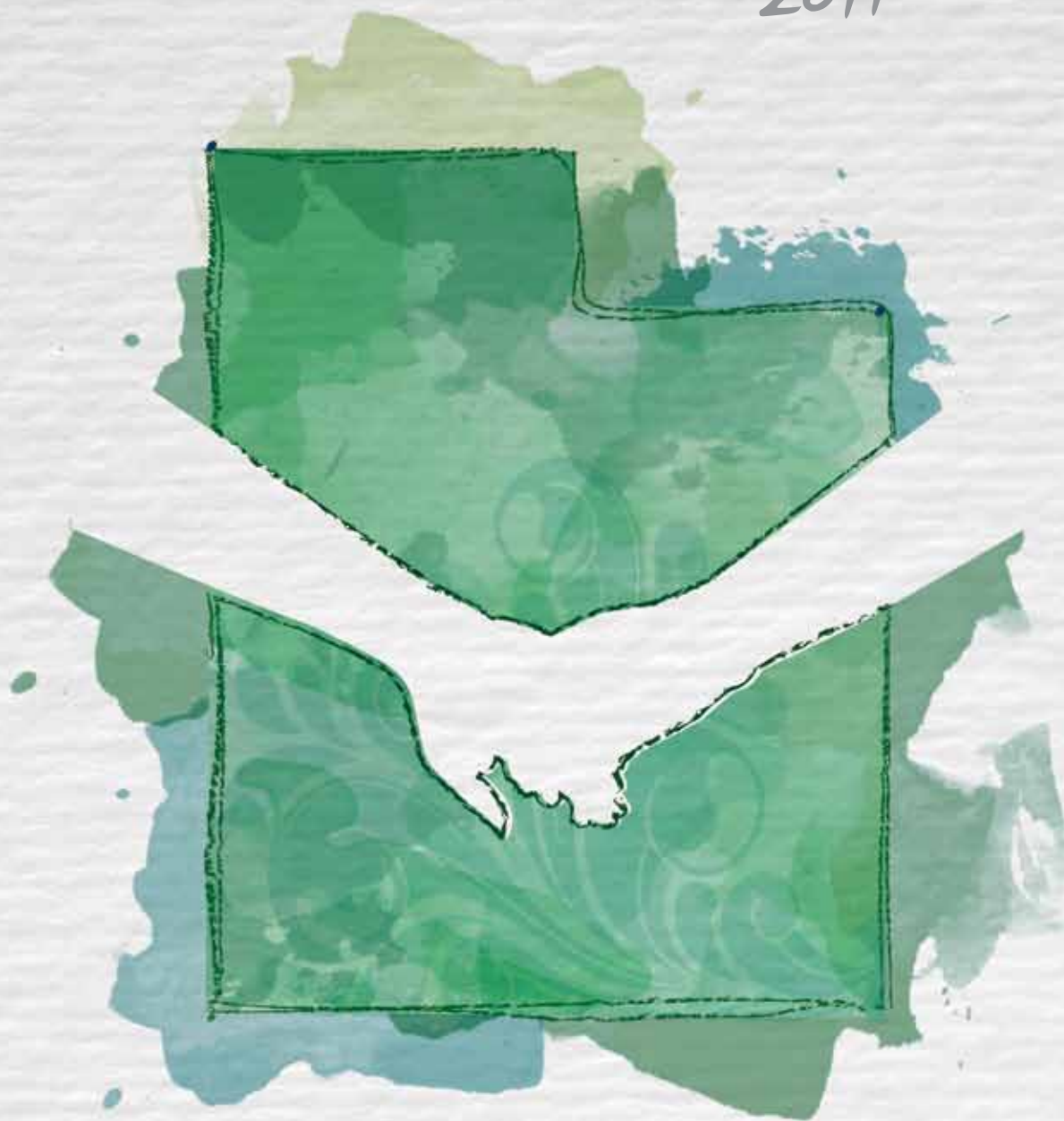


# RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

2011





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION: RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION IN UTAH</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>HIGHLIGHTS FROM COUNTY FACULTY WHO ARE IN YEAR TWO OF PROGRAMMING</b> .....	<b>2-9</b>
Beaver County, Cache County, Carbon County, Emery County, Juab County, Salt Lake County, San Juan County, Summit County, Tooele County, Utah County, Wasatch County, Washington County and Weber County	
<b>COUNTY FACULTY NEW TO THE GRANT IN 2011</b> .....	<b>10-15</b>
Davis County, Grand County, Morgan County, Sevier County, Uintah County, and Utah County 4-H	
<b>COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<i>Working with Existing Organizations</i> , Margie Memmott, Juab County .....	<b>16</b>
<i>Developing An Advisory Council</i> , Adrie Roberts, Cache County .....	<b>17</b>
<i>Marriage Coalitions</i> , Carolyn Washburn, Washington County .....	<b>18</b>
<i>Building Partnerships with Members of the American Indian Community</i> , Lou Mueller, San Juan County .....	<b>19</b>
<i>Reflections on Partnerships in Relationship Education</i> , Naomi Brower, Weber County .....	<b>20</b>

## PUBLICATION TEAM

### SENIOR EDITORS

Mitch Vaterlaus, Graduate Student

Linda Skogrand, Family Life Extension Specialist  
and Professor

Brian Higginbotham, Family Life Extension Specialist  
and Associate Professor

Kay Bradford, Associate Professor in Family, Consumer,  
and Human Development

### EDITORS

County Extension Faculty

### GRAPHIC DESIGN & LAYOUT

Ashlee Karren, Graphic Designer

# INTRODUCTION: RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION IN UTAH

**R**elationship education (RE) is an important part of the role of Family Consumer Science (FCS) faculties' programming throughout the state of Utah. This booklet recognizes the expertise and state-wide reach of Utah State University (USU) Extension, and the Utah Commission on Marriage, a component of the Utah Department of Workforce Services (DWS), that financially supports Extension's RE programs. In the first grant year (2009-2010), 14 of Utah's 28 counties that have Extension offices participated in offering RE programs. In 2010-2011, 18 counties offered programming.

The three USU faculty members who provided oversight for this program for the past two years, with equal responsibility, are Dr. Kay Bradford, Dr. Brian Higginbotham, and Dr. Linda Skogrand. They subawarded funds to county faculty, oversaw the fiscal management of the funds, provided technical support to the county faculty, and evaluated the RE activities.



Left to Right:  
Brian Higginbotham, Linda Skogrand, & Kay Bradford

In the 2010-2011 year, the county faculty provided a wide range of RE opportunities with varying degrees of funding. County faculty members proposed activities that they anticipated would work in the respective counties and would be doable considering their existing workloads. Some faculty members offered multiple classes as part of a series, and others offered one-time events. Some activities were for high school age youth, others were for single adults, and still others were for married couples.

The first section of the booklet provides a description of projects of faculty members in counties who were in their second year of funding. The second section of the booklet provides a description of projects of faculty members who were newly funded in this second year, along with information about lessons learned.

An important part of providing RE through Extension is developing partnerships and this is the focus of the third section of this booklet. One of the goals of the Utah Healthy Relationship Initiative is to promote program sustainability. Community involvement is essential in the development of sustainable RE programs. Increasing community involvement can occur through the development of partnerships or collaborations with others. Community partnerships in RE can be formed with existing organizations, individuals, and through newly developed or existing community boards, advisory committees, and councils. Successful partnerships share common goals, have awareness of what can be accomplished through the collaboration, and continually evaluate their efforts and relationships. County faculty members across the state of Utah have made efforts to develop and maintain partnerships. Five county Extension faculty members are highlighted because of their strong commitment and experience with community partnerships.

We learned about the successes of county Extension faculty through regular reports, observations, face-to-face interviews, and online surveys. We congratulate each of them and affirm that the RE they provided is enhancing the lives of couples and families throughout Utah.

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM COUNTY FACULTY WHO ARE IN YEAR TWO OF PROGRAMMING



**BEAVER COUNTY**  
CLINT ALBRECHT

Some of our activities this year included an essay contest during marriage week on “What makes marriage work,” couple date nights, and interactive marriage education courses. We continued to find success with the marriage activity cards and recognize the positive attention they bring raising awareness about healthy relationships. The cards contain various couple activities and when they were completed the couples receive an incentive. The cards were introduced in a newspaper article. This year a local movie theatre partnered with us and provided two movie tickets when couples completed the activities. This was the first county where the marriage activity cards were used and several counties are using variations of these cards. This year our efforts also included providing RE for college students and it has been especially exciting to provide educational services for young adults in our county. We feel that more young adults are thinking critically about their future relationships and learning skills that will enhance these relationships. Before we provided RE opportunities, 99% of these young adults had no education about marriage dynamics and what it takes to make marriages work. These educational activities have filled a gap.





## CACHE COUNTY

ADRIE ROBERTS

**T**he RE courses for the Latino population continued to be successful in our county. We were excited to be invited to hold our course in Centro de la Familia in Cache County. This is a Migrant Head Start program and the curriculum used in this program was also approved by the Migrant Head Start Administration in Salt Lake City. This year we also were able to reach the college student population by offering five dinner date nights on campus that included a RE component. Relationship experts presented information about topics such as finances, showing appreciation in one's relationship, what makes a strong marriage, and gender differences in marriage. Feedback on evaluation forms was very positive, and many participants requested that the date nights be offered in the future.



## CARBON COUNTY

ELLEN SERFUSTINI

**W**e distributed 92 *Utah Marriage Handbooks* to newlywed couples through the county clerk's office during this past year. We also continued to build on our successes from the previous year by working with 4-H and Youth and Families with Promise. Working with these pre-existing programs that provide services for low-income families and individuals has increased our ability to provide RE to these populations. This year during one of our "Eat and Educate" classes, we used the *How to Avoid Falling for a Jerk(ette)* curriculum. We received very positive feedback from the participants concerning the specific skills they learned from this RE program.



## EMERY COUNTY

CHRISTINE JENSEN

**R**elationship Education opportunities were provided for couples, newlyweds, and teenagers. One evening we had a pizza dinner for couples and Liz Edmunds, The Food Nanny, and her husband presented information about couples, families, and food. Couples in attendance learned about the importance of safety and security in relationships. They also were encouraged to eat dinner as a family. Some participants approached us weeks later to report they were making family dinner a priority.



## JUAB COUNTY

MARGIE MEMMOTT

**W**e found continued support from the local high school to provide RE. This year the student body officers wanted to increase the intensity of RE. Daily relationship information in the announcements and the healthy relationship essay contest continued as part of this effort and the officers added several more activities to the campaign during the month of February. Community partners donated prizes for the healthy relationship essay contest at the school. The school administration and student body officers reported that the activities were effective in raising awareness about healthy relationship principles and provided opportunities to put these principles into practice on a daily basis.



Melanie Jewkes



Marilyn Albertson

# SALT LAKE COUNTY

MELANIE JEWKES  
MARILYN ALBERTSON

A variety of RE courses were offered this year. New this year were RE courses for refugee populations. We were invited to present information to refugees from Sierre Leon, Rwanda, and Ethiopia. We used the *Building Strong Families* curriculum and made the presentations interactive and hands on. Some of the offerings required translators and information was modified to increase understanding. Feedback from the participants was positive. They reported that they enjoyed the presentation style and requested additional courses concerning healthy relationships.



# SAN JUAN COUNTY

LOU MUELLER

We have continued to provide culturally relevant RE opportunities for Native American residents in our county. We have also expanded our RE efforts to reach young adults. We have partnered with the College of Eastern Utah—San Juan Campus to provide RE for students in their Upward Bound Program. Students in this program are usually from rural communities and neither of their parents have attended college. The *How to Avoid Falling for a Jerk(ette)* curriculum was used with the college students. Students who attended indicated that they learned specific tools to develop healthy relationships.



## SUMMIT COUNTY

SUSAN HAWS

There was great excitement concerning RE generated from our programs from the previous year. People who attended last year have come back to ask when new RE opportunities will be available. This year we provided a guest speaker during marriage week from the Utah Valley Mental Health group who spoke about strengthening couple communication skills. We had 25 couples in attendance. Attendees at this event requested future RE and some would like to see RE specifically for newlyweds.



## TOOELE COUNTY

DARLENE CHRISTENSEN

Offerings in Tooele County continued by way of one-time events, a healthy relationship public awareness campaign, and by providing relationship curricula for couples and individuals. Our activities have generated an increase of public awareness about the importance of RE. Our offering of the *How to Avoid Falling for a Jerk(ette)* curriculum for youth and young adults was featured in the Home Section of our local newspaper which provided excellent publicity for the efforts of our local marriage coalition.





## UTAH COUNTY

JANA DARRINGTON

In the past year our date nights have increased in popularity. Some of this year's date night themes included: "marinating your marriage" (a grilling date night that focused on building individual and couple strengths), "reach the summit" (couples went on a hike and had a discussion about overcoming challenges together), and a "tropical date night" (couples prepared a meal together and learned about the importance of continuing to date in marriage). Attendance at our date nights has ranged from 11 to 21 couples. Date nights have served as a comfortable way to develop a base of couples in our county who are interested in strengthening their relationships.



## WASATCH COUNTY

DEBRA PROCTOR

There was a goal to increase access to the *Utah Marriage Handbook* in our county, and in the past year, 75 couples received the handbook when they applied for a marriage license. We also provided RE for youth in our county at an Annual Issues Conference for high school students. We used this annual conference as an opportunity to present the *How to Avoid Falling for a Jerk(ette)* curriculum. There were 120 high school students who attended this event.



## WASHINGTON COUNTY

CAROLYN WASHBURN

There was continued success in providing RE events for couples. The activities were designed to be interactive, and child care was provided. We also provided RE for youth in the county. We have partnered with county schools to provide presentations about assertiveness and violence prevention in relationships. We were also invited to provide RE through a presentation for 400 female high school seniors at Girls State. Our work with youth has been well received, and we have been invited back for additional presentations.



## WEBER COUNTY

NAOMI BROWER

We continued to provide RE opportunities for both adults and youth in our county. We held couple date nights, courses about money and relationships, and a marriage conference. We continued to find success using the *How to Avoid Falling for a Jerk(ette)* curriculum. Our successes with the curriculum during the first year of the grant have encouraged many Extension faculty members to use this curriculum in their own counties. The curriculum is designed to be offered in a series of five sessions and teaches participants to be aware of key areas that need to be considered when choosing a partner. During this grant year we have held a total of 216 events, courses, or one-time presentations. Many of these classes were offered in a series format—providing at least 8-10 hours of instruction for participants who attended all sessions.



# COUNTY FACULTY NEW TO THE GRANT IN 2011



**DAVIS COUNTY**  
JOANNE ROUECHE

**W**e received funding for a one-time relationship education speaker in our county. This was one of our first attempts to provide RE for our county and we wanted to create awareness of the need for this education in our community.

## “EXPERIENCING MARRIAGE HIGH DEFINITION”

Matt Townsend was invited to provide a RE presentation during marriage week. We received support from several partners in order to host this event. This well-known speaker generated widespread county interest. Flyers were sent out in the county Extension newsletter, the local newspaper, Communities with Promise, the school district, and the Air Force base. We had over 200 in attendance at the event. The speaker was dynamic and provided engaging information for people of all ages.

## LESSONS LEARNED

Traditionally, the few RE education classes that have been offered in our county have not generated much response. This lecture was advertised as a county-wide event and was well attended. Since the completion of the event, several county residents have inquired as to when additional RE programs will be offered. We have learned that providing a one-time RE event can generate increased interest in RE.



# GRAND COUNTY

## MICHAEL JOHNSON

In our county, we provided one five-week series and a condensed two-week series of strengthening relationship courses. This was our first attempt providing RE in our county. Extension faculty members are expected to provide services on a variety of topic areas. I would not say that RE is my expertise, but I was able to put on two programs by finding a qualified presenter.

### RELATIONSHIP COURSE

A master's student specializing in family studies at Utah State University agreed to develop and facilitate the relationship courses. Before the programs began, we met with people from the local Head Start program and they were willing to encourage couples to attend. We determined that child care and a meal would be provided to decrease barriers in order to get couples from the county to participate. We advertised the courses through contacts in the county, posted flyers around town, and placed advertisements in two local newspapers. Also, an article about the relationship course was published in a local newspaper. The first course was delivered over a five-week time period. Nineteen couples attended the five-week series.

The second series of classes were condensed to be offered over two meeting times. These classes followed a similar format with a meal, child care, and instruction. There was less participant discussion in this series because the amount of information provided increased. We had five single people and seven couples attend. Only two people did not return for the second session.

### LESSONS LEARNED

We learned that RE can be a valuable addition in our county. Both couples and single members of our county who attended our RE courses reported that the information was beneficial. The courses were made possible by finding a qualified facilitator who had skills in providing programming. One thing we learned was that less expensive meals can still be an incentive for attendance. In our second series of classes we found that sandwich meats, rolls, and salad were enough to make people happy versus a more involved catered meal.





# MORGAN COUNTY

## AMANDA CHRISTENSEN

**W**e received funding for three different RE opportunities in our county. I was hired as a faculty member in 2009 and RE had not been done in the county in recent years.

### MARRIAGE AND MONEY CLASSES

We offered a three-class series that addressed couple relationships and money issues. My educational training is in consumer sciences, so I found success in teaching the money portion of the course and found outside speakers to address relationship information. The classes were designed to be date nights which included meals and presentations. The meals were catered by a local restaurant and a small fee was charged per person. We were expecting approximately 15 couples to attend each class and were excited to have 22 couples in attendance.

### LESSONS LEARNED

We learned that our county residents are receptive to RE. We found that offering the course on Thursday evenings was better than other nights because it did not conflict with local high school sporting events and other activities. We also learned that partnerships can improve attendance. Our partnership with the local restaurant provided a great way to advertise our event. Additionally, participants consistently stated that they enjoyed the combination of RE and a meal.



# SEVIER COUNTY

## REBECCA MILLS

**W**e received funding for several RE activities in our county. Our activities included a speaker and dessert, date nights, education for youth, and a newspaper campaign.

### NEWSPAPER CAMPAIGN

We were particularly excited about our newspaper campaign. Professional advertisements that included information about healthy relationships were created by the local newspaper design team. The advertisements were designed to provide “a relationship tip of the day.” We would run one to two advertisements per month. Our partnership with the newspaper generated interest in the RE events that we sponsored. The newspaper ran a front page story before our dinner and speaker during marriage week and they did a follow-up article at the conclusion. The newspaper also provided us with an online option for our advertisements. The newspaper marketing department indicated that in the month of April our advertisement was shown on a webpage 8,133 times and that we were among the top ten advertisers in the newspaper.

### LESSONS LEARNED

We learned that many people in the county were unaware that Cooperative Extension provided RE. Providing several different activities has increased awareness of RE in our county. We learned that RE does not have to be elaborate to get people to attend or raise awareness about healthy relationships.



# UINTAH COUNTY

JANET SMITH

**W**e received funding for a one-time RE event for couples in our community. This was our first attempt to provide RE in our county in recent years.

## COUPLE DATE NIGHT

We planned a dinner date for couples in our county during the same week as Valentine's Day. A professor from the Utah State University—Roosevelt Campus, was the keynote speaker at the event. We used the Marriage Activity card that originally generated success in Beaver County as an advertising tool. These cards encourage couples to complete activities as a couple in various locations in the community. Cards were placed at numerous locations throughout the county. The cards generated interest and positive discussion among community members. Flyers about the event were also posted around the community. We had a local teen council agree to be waiters and waitresses at the event. We had portions of the meal catered and provided some of it on our own. We ended up having 19 couples in attendance and they reported that it was a positive experience.

## LESSONS LEARNED

When planning this activity, there was not extensive support from community residents concerning RE. Many people stated that they did not have time to participate in RE activities. This was disappointing to hear while planning a RE date night. However, we were pleasantly surprised at the feedback we received concerning the event. Many couples commented that they felt the event was enjoyable and helpful. Some people even recommended that we do it again but not during the week of Valentine's Day. We have learned that doing the card activity increased interest in RE and if we did it again, we would have much more support from members of our community.



# UTAH COUNTY 4-H

## JOLENE BUNNELL

**W**e held two RE events in our county. One of the activities was focused on collegiate 4-H members who are leaders in 4-H and the second was held for the parents of 4-H members.

### RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION IN 4-H

We used the *How to Avoid Falling for a Jerk(ette)* curriculum that was originally used with much success in Weber County. We had 90 college students in attendance at this workshop. Every student at the conference chose to attend this workshop. The overall feedback from the conference indicated that the presentation was picked as the favorite of the conference.

We planned a dinner and speaker for the parents of 4-H youth. The speaker was the Dean for the Caine College of the Arts at Utah State University. Fifty-one couples attended the event and eight 4-H youth volunteered to serve at the dinner. The speaker presented information about balancing stress in life, making time for your spouse, and keeping the spark alive in relationships.

### LESSONS LEARNED

Consistent with our previous experience in working with youth, we found that RE was received more positively with hands-on activities. We presented the information from the curriculum at the conference, but added activities which made it more interactive. We also learned that flexibility is required in providing RE. The original venue for the Sweetheart Dinner was damaged by fire prior to the event, so a different location had to be found at the last minute.

# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND RE



## WORKING WITH EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS

MARGIE MEMMOTT, JUAB COUNTY

It was our belief when we started providing RE in our county that success hinged on local buy-in from our community. To increase the buy-in, we decided to build community partnerships with existing organizations in our county. When identifying potential community partnerships, we looked for groups, entities, and individuals who served our target populations and had common goals. Two of our most successful partnerships have been with our Local Interagency Council and with the student government organization at the local high school.

The Local Interagency Council in our county was in place before we began providing RE specific to this grant. The council is made up of the school district, law enforcement, Department of Workforce Services, Division of Child and Family Services, local government, Fine Arts Council, and Utah State University Cooperative Extension personnel. To develop a partnership with the council for the purpose of providing RE, presentations were prepared and given at monthly meetings. Buy-in increased by encouraging council members to brainstorm activity ideas that would promote healthy relationships. Also, at the monthly meetings, presentations and flyers were provided about upcoming events. Advertising through the council members has proven to be a good way to reach the county as a whole. The council originally was supportive, but over the two years has increased their support. New opportunities to present RE for a variety of organizations have emerged from relationships that have been developed on this council.

Another organization that has proven to be a strong partnership has been the student government at the local high school. Originally the student body officers and their advisor were recruited to provide “relationship tips of the day” by way of regular school announcements during the month of February and promote the healthy relationship essay contest. The student body officers were excited about the outcomes and the activities during the first year of the grant. During the second year of the grant, the students indicated an even increased investment in healthy relationships. They have brainstormed ways to provide RE activities throughout the year in addition to the entire month of February.

We have learned that developing partnerships with existing organizations can be an effective way of increasing the success of RE in our county. The partnerships took time to form, but have proven to be even more beneficial as they have been sustained over multiple years.





# DEVELOPING AN ADVISORY COUNCIL

## ADRIE ROBERTS, CACHE COUNTY

**C**ommunity partnerships have been critical as we have strived to provide RE for Latino participants in our county. We have found success in working with local church groups and by building relationships with organizations that already provide services for Latino people. One of our greatest successes that has increased the sustainability and progress of our programs has been our Latino Advisory Council.

When we received our first grant in 2009, we requested funding to develop a Latino Advisory Board. We first identified people and organizations in the county that could be strong contributors in assisting in the development of culturally appropriate RE for Latino participants. We sent out 100 letters inviting these people to a dinner. We had 20 people attend. The dinner served as a way to raise awareness of our goals of providing RE and also served as the first planning meeting. This first dinner formed the base of our Latino Advisory Council and since then, the council has grown to about 40 active members. This past year, we invited anyone who we thought might be interested in getting involved with the council to this dinner/planning meeting. Providing a dinner seems to increase members' willingness to attend. The topic and our passion for RE makes them want to contribute to the discussion and to volunteer.

The advisory council meets between one and two times yearly. To maintain these relationships between meetings, information about events, challenges, and updates is emailed regularly to the members. I serve as the leader of the council, but in general, leadership roles are not defined. The Latino Advisory Council has provided feedback concerning the cultural sensitivity of the course content and advertising. The council has also secured buildings where the RE courses are held. Most council members are very active in recruitment/advertising, volunteering to be instructors at events, and some provide support through attending the RE events.

The Latino Advisory Council has been an integral component to the successes we have had in providing RE for Latino participants. We continue to be passionate about making RE accessible to the Latino community. It is important that we maintain the quality of our programs, which make our relationships with members on the Latino Advisory Council sustainable. We evaluate our relationships with these members by their active involvement in attending meetings, advertising, responding to emails, and participation in the actual events.



## MARRIAGE COALITIONS

CAROLYN WASHBURN, WASHINGTON COUNTY

**W**e have established a Marriage Coalition in our county. Our coalition is largely responsible for being able to receive so much community support in providing RE. Members of our coalition come from private mental health practices, schools, service organizations, and religious groups. Originally the coalition members were primarily responsible in assisting with our marriage celebration, but now are active in advertising, curriculum development, and teaching RE.

Our Marriage Coalition has remained strong over the two years of the grant. We have had some members leave and new members join. We have found that we do not have to actively recruit new members, because they come to us when they hear about what we are accomplishing. For example, I recently did a radio show and the host asked if he could become a member.

Our coalition members seem to have defined their own roles. I take charge of setting the meeting days and times. We have two members who are very good at leading and delegating jobs. This flexible approach has worked well for us. We have found that meeting four to five times a year meets our needs. We meet two times for planning our large marriage celebration, one time for evaluation and date night planning, one meeting before our county fair, and finally we meet again in time to review the grant funding. There are also frequent interactions between coalition members because many have volunteered to be instructors for the RE events. Emails are sent bi-monthly with updates about RE attendance.

The Marriage Coalition has been critical in building a connection with the community and making our RE programs sustainable. We see it as an essential component of our continued success.



## BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS WITH MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN COMMUNITY

LOU MUELLER, SAN JUAN COUNTY

**W**e have found that it is absolutely essential to have American Indian partnerships if we want to provide RE for the American Indian population. It was essential to have American Indian partners involved in the planning and implementation of RE. We believe that the start of our partnerships occurred when we conducted a research project about strong marriages with Navajo couples. All research projects done on the reservation have to be approved by the Navajo Nation Human Research Review Board. Working with this review board was time consuming and challenging, however, the process helped us discover what is important to the leaders of this cultural group. The research led to the development of an activity book entitled *Strong Marriages for Navajo Couples: Activity Book for Couples*. Information from this activity book was used to frame RE classes for Navajo participants. We knew that we had a program that this population appreciated because it was generated by people from their own culture.

With the development of a culturally relevant and appropriate curriculum, we were able to build partnerships with multiple organizations on the Navajo reservation. One of our most successful partnerships was with the Utah Navajo Health System. One of their employees, who already provided support groups during the lunch hour, was recruited to teach the curriculum. We also developed relationships with specific Native chapters on the reservation. These partnerships were beneficial in recruitment of Native American participants and also helped us identify RE presenters from the cultural group.

Over the grant years, we have found it challenging to maintain the partnerships with these organizations. One example of such challenges is that the diminishing attendance at individual chapter meetings has limited the number of Native activities they support. However, through our partnerships, we have been able to provide culturally relevant RE for large numbers of Native Americans.



## REFLECTIONS ON PARTNERSHIPS IN RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

NAOMI BROWER, WEBER COUNTY

**W**hen I first began providing RE, I tried to utilize any partnerships I could find. Now that I have become more established, I tend to gravitate toward partnerships that can provide me with target audiences. I have found that I can reach more people this way with fewer resources. I also actively look for partnerships that can lead to multiple presentation opportunities and/or potentially reach new audiences to keep the RE momentum going in my county.

Partnerships continue to be the ideal way to find participants for classes. Partners often provide target audiences for presentations or at least can help get the word out about classes and encourage participants to attend. It would be challenging to hold classes successfully without partnerships. I often ask partners what they need so I can continually be working to better meet their needs, because it's a win-win situation—I provide information their audience needs and they provide me with an audience.

Partnerships in our county have included existing organizations and the development of a Marriage Coalition. The maintenance of partnerships involves finding people with passion about RE. Experience has shown that it is a person's or organization's passion that keeps them involved when they don't "need" to be because a job position or internship is over. Also, I have found that limiting the number of meetings can be very helpful in sustaining partnerships. Communication through email can promote the flexibility that allows more people to be involved.

Evaluating the effectiveness of partnerships is also important. I do not formally evaluate the partnership. However, I evaluate the partnerships based on the amount of effort put in on both sides of the partnership and ultimately the outcomes of the events. If the cost is greater than the return, then I look at making efforts to either balance the relationship or move the energy I am exerting to new partnerships where people are more engaged.







# UtahStateUniversity

## COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

e x t e n s i o n . u s u . e d u

FR/Marriage/2012-02-pr